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a way that both display portions can be arranged in one common plain so as to form a flat common display.

According to yet another embodiment of the present invention the top cover and the base cover each have a length and a width, wherein the first display portion and/or the second display portion extend essentially over the whole length and/or the whole width of the respective cover.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention the first and second display portions have the same size. It's understood that instead of having the same size in some cases the display portions can have different sizes.

According to another embodiment of the present invention each of the first and second display portions are also operable as separate displays. In other words, it is possible to use the first display portion as a first display, for example as a display for showing photos, road maps or other graphical information, and to use the second display portion as a second display, for example for showing text information.

According to yet another embodiment of the present invention the electronic device is a mobile device, especially a hand-held device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The features of the present invention presented above as well as other features will now be described in greater detail with reference to the attached drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 illustrates in a schematic perspective view a foldable electronic device according to the present invention in a nearly closed position;

FIG. 2 illustrates in a schematic perspective view the electronic device from FIG. 1 in an opened position with the keyboard being inside the casing;

FIG. 3 illustrates in a schematic perspective view the electronic device from FIG. 1 in the opened position with the keyboard being pulled out of the casing; and

FIG. 4 illustrates in a schematic perspective view the electronic device from FIG. 1 in the opened position with the keyboard being pulled out and being pivoted to a lower position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In FIGS. 1 to 4 a foldable electronic device according to the present invention is shown during a typical opening action.

The shown foldable electronic device comprises a casing 1, wherein the casing 1 is divided into a top cover 2 and a base cover 3 being pivotably connected to each other by means of a hinge 4. This allows the top cover 2 to be pivoted relative to the base cover 3 between a closed position and an opened position.

FIG. 1 illustrates the first step of the opening action, wherein the casing 1 is in a nearly closed position.

FIG. 2 illustrates the second step of the opening action of the casing 1. In FIG. 2 the top cover 2 and the base cover 3 of the casing 1 are spread open to a maximum, thereby folding out a two-part display 5 comprising a first display portion 6 and a second display portion 7.

Comparing FIGS. 1 and 2 it can be seen that the display 5 is hidden inside the casing 1 in the closed position and is visible in the opened position. In the present embodiment in the closed position the first display portion 6 is accommodated adjacent to the top cover 2 and the second display portion 7 is accommodated within the base cover 3.

According to the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 to 4 the first and second display portions 6, 7 are connected to each other via a hinge 9. The first display portion 6 is further

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connected to the top cover 2 via a further hinge 10 and the second display portion 7 is further connected to the base cover 3 via a further hinge 11. This allows to fold the first and second display portions 6, 7 out of the respective cover 2, 3 and, in the closed position, to accommodate the first display portion 6 adjacent to the top cover 2 and the second display portion 7 within the base cover 3.

FIG. 3 illustrates the third step of the opening action. Comparing FIGS. 2 and 3 it can be seen that a keyboard 8 is arranged slideably relative to the base cover 3 between a closed position (FIG. 2) and an opened position (FIG. 3). As shown in FIG. 3, in the closed position the keyboard 8 is partly surrounded by the base cover 3 and the second display portion 7. As shown in FIG. 3, when pulled out the keyboard 8 and the keycaps are all visible.

FIG. 4 illustrates the fourth step of the opening action. Comparing now FIGS. 3 and 4 it can be seen that the keyboard 8 is not only arranged slideably but also pivotably relative to the base cover 3 and second display portion 7 from an upper position to a lower position so as to form an ergonomical position for typing on the keyboard 8.

Referring to FIGS. 2 to 4, the top cover 2 and the base cover 3 have a certain length and width, wherein the first display portion 6 and the second display portion 7 extend essentially over the whole length and the whole width of the respective cover 2, 3. Further, it can be seen that the first and second display portions 6, 7 have essentially the same size.

The foldable electronic device shown in FIGS. 1 to 4 is relative small-sized and therefore easily fits into pockets of clothing pieces such as trouser pockets. Nevertheless, in the opened position of the casing 1 the common display 5 is large enough for comfortably browsing internet, writing documents etc.

While there have been shown and described and pointed out fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the devices and methods described may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, it is expressly intended that all combinations of those elements and/or method steps which perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve the same results are within the scope of the invention. Moreover, it should be recognized that structures and/or elements and/or method steps shown and/or described in connection with any disclosed form or embodiment of the invention may be incorporated in any other disclosed or described or suggested form or embodiment as a general matter of design choice. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the claims appended hereto. Furthermore, in the claims means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents, but also equivalent structures. Thus although a nail and a screw may not be structural equivalents in that a nail employs a cylindrical surface to secure wooden parts together, whereas a screw employs a helical surface, in the environment of fastening wooden parts, a nail and a screw may be equivalent structures.

What is claimed is:

1. A foldable electronic device comprising

a casing with a top cover and a base cover being pivotably connected to each other by means of a hinge, such that the top cover can be pivoted relative to the base cover between an opened position and a closed position, a display which is visible in the opened position of the casing and which is hidden inside the casing in the